Fellowship
PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

OCT. 1, 1961
VOL. 27, NO. 19

PEACE GROUPS LAUNCH JOINT "TURN TOWARD PEACE" CAMPAIGN

Meeting in an atmosphere permeated by a sense of deep crisis, the country's leading peace organizations joined last month with representatives of other national groups in setting up a new joint peace campaign. The effort, called "Turn Toward Peace," will have as its principal objective the task of using the resources of the participating groups and individuals to bring to public attention constructive alternatives to the present predominantly military foreign policy of the United States. These alternatives will be presented as initiatives that may be taken by the United States without the need for prior Soviet agreement, and that will be calculated to reduce tension and to elicit a favorable Soviet response.

While details of the plan have not been completed, it is hoped that a largely volunteer structure of workers will have been organized in several hundred cities and towns across the country before the end of the year.

The organizing meeting, held in the Carnegie Building near the United Nations in New York on September 18, was the outgrowth of a recommendation by the pacifist Consultative Peace Council during the summer. Presided over by veteran peace worker Norman Thomas (who was subsequently elected national chairman of the campaign), it was notable both for the sense of crisis that gripped the participants, and for the presence of representatives of of organizations not usually found in such gatherings. These latter included two large labor unions, two veterans' groups, and a number of other non-peace organizations. All made it clear that the ominous developments over the Berlin issue, the resumption of nuclear testing by the Soviet Union, and the subsequent resumption of tests by this government, had created the worst crisis since World War II. One participant, just returned from conferences in Washington, quoted an unnamed "high official" as having reported government estimates of one chance in five that nuclear war will develop over Berlin, and that government planners "take for granted" the calculation that the outbreak of nuclear war would mean no survivors in the section of the United

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IFOR Adopts Peace Team Idea

One of the important decisions taken by the Council of the International FOR at its meetings at Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, this summer, was approval of a recommendation sent to it by the Council of the American FOR, concerning the development of "reconciliation teams" for intervention in international crisis situations. The proposal was an outgrowth of the American FOR's recruiting of such a group in the Cuban crisis.

The IFOR decision approved the proposal in principle, and authorized the formation of a "committee of committees" to work out the details. The committees are being formed in London by Hampden Horne, chairman of the British FOR; in Glasgow by Clifford Macquire, former British FOR executive secretary; in Arnhem by Hannes de Graaf, chairman of the IFOR's European Committee; in Lyon by Jean Lasserre, newly appointed IFOR secretary for French-speaking areas; and in New York by Alfred Hassler, who will coordinate the work of the whole committee.

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PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

Box 271, Nyack, New York

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FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

Peace Groups (cont'd)

States east of Cleveland, Ohio.

"Turn Toward Peace" will try to combine the aspects of a campaign to reduce the pressures over Berlin with the development of a longer-range general peace effort. Evaluation of the success of the campaign will be made by the participants shortly after the first of the year.

Direction of the campaign will be lodged in a Campaign Steering Committee including representatives of all participating organizations and other individuals. An Executive Committee of 16 chosen by the Steering Committee will oversee the day-to-day activities. Active directors of "Turn Toward Peace" are Robert Pickus, director of the San Francisco-Berkeley Acts for Peace program, and Sanford Gottlieb, political action director of SANE.

On September 19 the National Executive Committee of FOR, meeting in New York, approved participation of FOR in the campaign as a "cooperating organization," and authorized executive secretary Alfred Hassler to represent it on the TTP Executive Committee. Further plans for specific forms of cooperation are to be worked out.

British Anti-Nuclear Demonstrators Jailed

In England on Sept. 18, more than 1,140 people were jailed following their arrest for participation in a mass sit-down demonstration in Trafalgar Square, London, protesting nuclear arms. Those arrested were among some 10,000 demonstrators who gathered in the Square and adjoining streets in an attempt to make known their demand for "the abandonment of all policies based on mass extermination." Some 4000 policemen were on hand to deal with what was considered "the most ambitious British demonstration against nuclear arms ever staged." The protest was sponsored by the Committee of 100, an organization which espouses the use of nonviolent direct action to oppose nuclear weapons manufacture.

Meanwhile, in Holy Loch, Scotland, 351 persons were arrested on Sept. 17 for participating in a demonstration protesting the presence of Polaris missile-firing submarines in the area. The 20-hour demonstration was also sponsored by the Committee of 100.

Earlier, Bertrand Russell, 89-year-old philosopher and prominent member of the Committee of 100 was sentenced to seven days in jail for his "refusal to keep the peace" in connection with plans for the protest.

CUBA--A SECOND LOOK

Many Americans and Europeans feel that mishandling of the Castro-led Cuban revolution by the United States may have been the most tragic failure of this government to start new directions in international tensions since World War II.

Is it too late to recoup that error? Is Cuba "hopelessly Communist" or irretrievably anti-U.S.? What really is happening in the little republic in the Caribbean? Sidney Lens returned to Cuba this summer at FELLOWSHIP's request to try to find answers to these and other questions. His report will seem to many as significant as his article last March. Order extra copies now for your friends and library, and watch for:

"CUBA--A SECOND LOOK"
by Sidney Lens
in the
NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP

NEWS from the peace front

Soviet and American scientists agreed last month on a common joint attack on key problems of world disarmament and security at a meeting of the Eighth Conference on Science and World Affairs meeting in Stowe, Vt. The scientists set forth several new disengagement proposals for reducing tensions between East and West Germany and for the creation of an arms-free and nuclear-free area in the heart of Europe. The scientists, who participated as individuals rather than representatives of their governments, also agreed to set up two joint continuing studies on world security to be carried out by the Soviet Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. No such project has ever been approved before. The proposals made by the scientists were submitted to Washington and Moscow and both governments are expected to study and make use of them in diplomatic discussions.

More than 50 scientists representing ten different countries participated in the conference.

* * *

Members of the American-European peace march arrived in the Russian border city of Brest on Sept. 15, calling for an end to Soviet nuclear tests. Some 400 Russian people turned out for an anti-nuclear rally held by the group there. Later, the people treated the peacewalkers to a feast and a concert before they left on foot to resume their hike to Moscow. The Russian government has given the group permission to advocate unilateral disarmament by use of signs, in meetings and in the distribution of literature. The Committee for Nonviolent Action, sponsoring the project, said it was believed to be the first time Russia has allowed the existence of organized opposition to official policies within Soviet territories.

* * *

There is no shortage of alternative service positions to which COs may be assigned despite increased draft calls, according to a report made public last month by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors in Washington, D.C. "The type of institutions in which our men are serving are chronically short of help," a spokesman for the group said, "and there is no difficulty in find suitable work assignments acceptable to Selective Service."

* * *

Thirteen white and Negro Episcopal clergymen, including the son-in-law of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, were released on bail from a Jackson, Miss., jail last month after hvaing been arrested for seeking service at a local segregated bus terminal lunch counter. The thirteen, among 15 arrested on charges of "breach of the peace," were members of a 28-man "Prayer Pilgrimage" sponsored by the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity. The group celebrated Holy Communion while in jail and were reported to have recited the Lord's Prayer aloud as they were herded into a patrol wagon by Jackson police on the day of their arrest.

The two other clergymen chose to remain in jail.

* * *

The House of Representatives last month passed legislation creating a United States arms control agency in a vote of 291 to 54. The House bill, which follows lines recommended by the Administration, would create a semi-autonomous agency for disarmament within the Government. The agency would be responsible for drafting proposals for disarmament negotiations and conducting research into inspection methods and the economic and political consequences of disarmament. A modified version of the Administration's proposal was approved earlier last month by the Senate.

* * *

FOR members are urged to write President John F. Kennedy asking him to commute the death sentence of U.S. Seaman Jimmie Lee Henderson who was convicted of murdering his division of-

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ficer in 1957. A civilian psychiatrist declared Henderson paranoid, but the insanity plea was overruled by both the Navy General Court Martial and the Court of Military Appeals. There have been no executions in the Navy since 1894. A full report of the case has been made to President Kennedy by the American League to Abolish Capital Punishment.

Persons are also urged to ask Attorney General Robert Kennedy in Washington, D.C., to set up an "Office of Information on Capital Punishment."

* * *

FOR member Martin Niemöller was reported last month to be recovering at a hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, following a car accident which took the life of his wife and housekeeper in early August. The German church leader expects to attend the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in New Delhi in November.

* * *

"Christian nonviolence" was recognized as a means of achieving a "community of brotherhood" in a resolution adopted by the Baptist Student Movement at its ninth annual assembly meeting in Green Lake, Wis., last month. The resolution described Christian nonviolence as a "technique and/or way of life to establish within our country the new human community of the dignity of persons, and the justice of laws for all men."

The delegates represented some 250,000 American Baptist students in U.S. colleges and universities.

LIT NOTES

On hand: "Why Are the Churches Attacked as Red?" by Rev. Donald G. Lothrop. This 16-page pamphlet discusses those factors contributing to the decade of Communist charges against the churches and clergy and considers them in the light of the church's historic prophetic role. Price: 15¢ a copy. Order from Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

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Here's a unique opportunity to contribute to the FOR. Send me your useless or broken old rings, or other objects containing gold. I will remove the gold and send the proceeds to the FOR as a donation in your name. Mark your name and address clearly on the package and send parcel post or prepaid express, insured. The FOR will mail you a receipt for the assayed value of the gold. Please do not send gold to FOR Headquarters. Send before December 1 to:

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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